

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/082,089
Response filed December 1, 2004
Reply to OA dated September 9, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 12 and 14-17 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claim 8, and add new claims 18-20, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

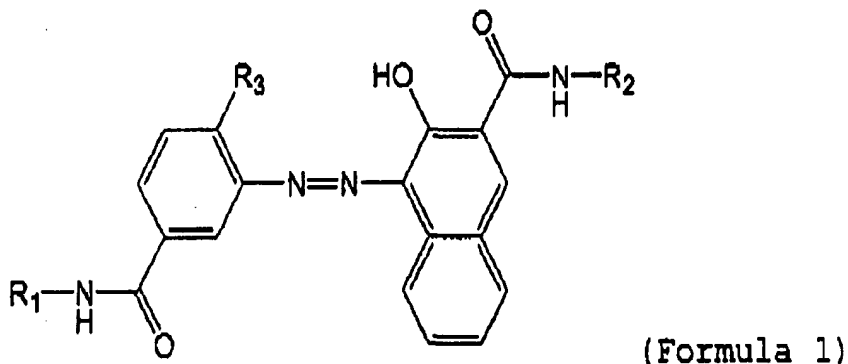
Claim 8 (Currently amended): A method of producing spherical dry color toner for electrostatic image development, in which the toner comprises a polyester resin having a carboxyl group, a releasant dispersed finely in the polyester resin and an organic pigment dispersed finely in the polyester resin,

the method comprising dissolving the polyester resin in an organic solvent, adding the colorant and the releasant, dispersing them to prepare a resin solution,

mixing the resin solution containing the polyester resin, the releasant and an organic pigment with an aqueous medium in the presence of a base and a phase inversion accelerator, to prepare a colored particle suspension containing the resin solution, as color particles, emulsified in the aqueous medium,

separating the colored particles from the colored particle suspension, and drying the colored particles,

wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said organic pigment is an organic pigment represented by Formula 1:



wherein R_1 represents a non-substituted phenyl group or a phenyl group having a substituent, R_2 represents hydrogen, a non-substituted phenyl group or a phenyl group having a substituent, and R_3 represents an alkoxy group or an ester group,

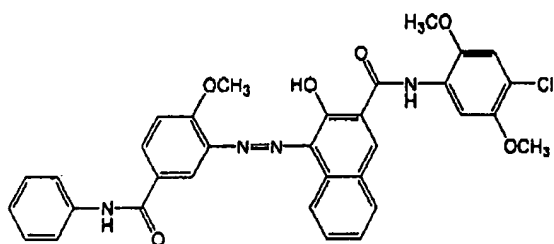
~~the method comprising mixing a mixture containing a polyester resin having a carboxyl group and an organic pigment represented by Formula 1 with an aqueous medium in the presence of a base and a said phase inversion accelerator, which may be is selected from methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol, isobutanol, n-butanol, t-butanol, sec-butanol, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, barium chloride, calcium chloride, cuprous chloride, cupric chloride, ferrous chloride, and ferric chloride, and to prepare a colored particle suspension containing the mixture, as color particles, emulsified in the aqueous medium, separating the colored particles from the colored particle suspension, and drying the colored particles~~

said releasant is a carnauba wax or a tetrabeheenate ester of pentaerythritol.

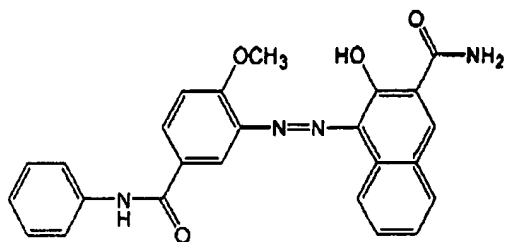
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/082,089
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Claims 9-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method of producing spherical dry color toner for electrostatic image development according to claim 8, wherein the organic pigment represented by Formula 1 is any one of formulas 2 to 9:



(Formula 2)

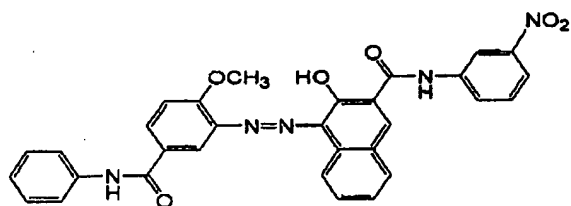


(Formula 3)

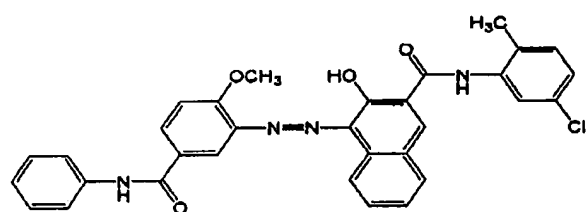
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/082,089

Response filed December 1, 2004

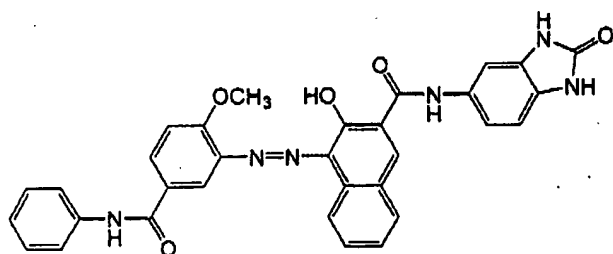
Reply to OA dated September 9, 2004



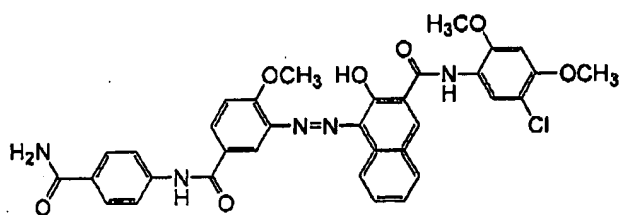
(Formula 4)



(Formula 5)

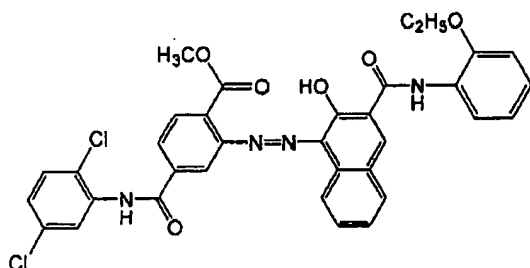


(Formula 6)

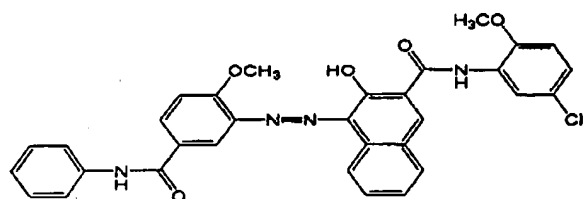


(Formula 7)

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/082,089
Response filed December 1, 2004
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(Formula 8)



(Formula 9)

Claims 14-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (New): A method of producing spherical dry color toner for electrostatic image development according to claim 13, wherein the organic pigment represented by Formula 1 is formula 8.

Claim 19 (New): A method of producing spherical dry color toner for electrostatic image development according to claim 8, wherein mixing the resin solution with an aqueous medium in

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the presence of a base and a phase inversion accelerator is a process of adding dropwise water while stirring at a circumferential speed within a range of 0.2-5 m/second.

Claim 20 (New): A method of producing spherical dry color toner for electrostatic image development according to claim 8, wherein mixing the resin solution with an aqueous medium in the presence of a base and a phase inversion accelerator is a process of adding dropwise water while stirring employing a stirrer, an anchor blade, a turbine blade, a faudler blade, a full-zone blade, a max blend blade, or a semicircular blade.